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Casco Bay Breeze: Vol 1, No 2.

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CASCO BAY BREEZE

A PUBLICATION OF THE ISLAND CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION — PO BOX 68 PEAKS ISLAND 04108

STRIKE SETTLED!

Two long months after it began, the strike that some of us thought would never end is now over. Who can forget the weeks of upset plans when the last boat was at 5:30? The 7:30 was an improvement, but we still faced evenings with no movies, no concerts, no council meetings, no classes, for many more weeks.

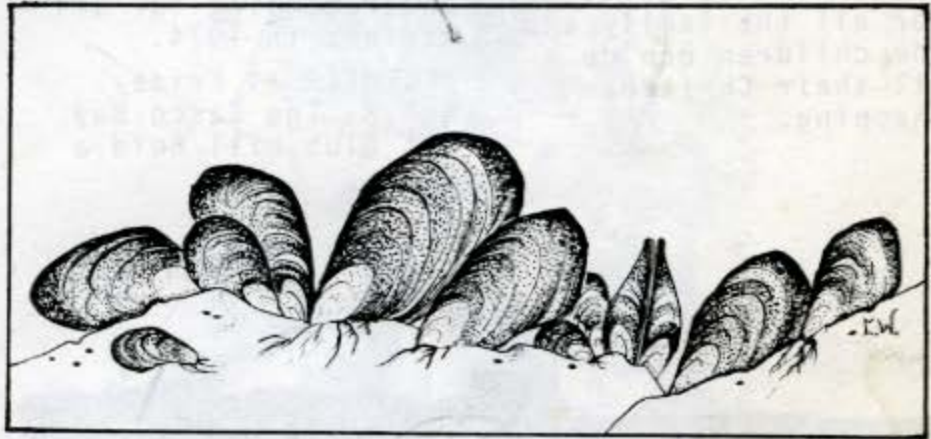
As the weather got colder, frustration grew as we all felt sympathy with the striking captains, standing day after day in the cold and rain.

But the weeks of holding out finally paid off, with Casco Bay Lines recognition of some of the union's demands on November 27.

The Breeze has not been able to obtain a personal interview with any of the captains, due to lack of time on part of our volunteer staff. However, silence is no doubt prudent at this point, as their contract stipulates that within a probationary period of 31 days, an employee may be fired without cause.

We have heard that the feeling is that

Continued On Page 9



Harbor Pollution - Serious But Not Hopeless

An island is inseparable from the water that surrounds it, for it is water that makes an island. All living things on an island, especially man, are directly or indirectly influenced by the quality of that surrounding water. Here we will look at the quality of the waters surrounding the islands of Casco Bay and the effects of one type of pollution, organic pollution, on those waters.

The pollution that affects Casco Bay is of several types, including organic, thermal, chemical, and a special type of chemical pollution, petrochemical pollution. Chemical pollution comes to Casco Bay from numerous industrial sources, the most notable being the S.D. Warren paper mill in Westbrook, which adds a number of pollutants to the Presumpscott River, including the deadly heavy metal, mercury. Petrochemical pollution has made the greatest impact on most island residents. The major spill of Bunker C oil from the tanker Tamaro in the summer of 1972 left great stretches of beach and rocky shoreline, numerous boats, and a multitude of shore birds and other creatures covered with a blight of thick, tarry, foul-smelling oil. Shellfish industries came to a standstill and all commercial fishing industries were adversely affected. However, due to the complex nature

Continued On Page 7

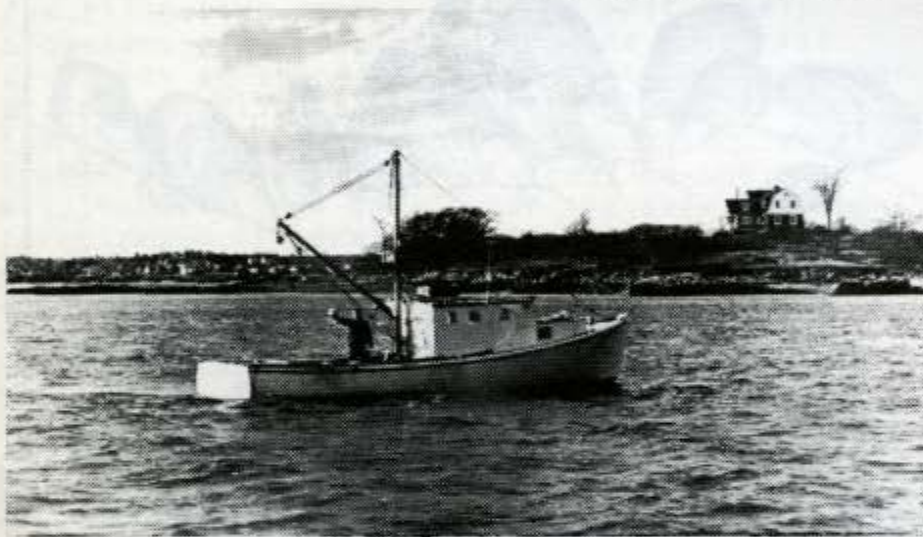
peaks island currents

Compiled By Dorothy Wright.

DECEMBER 8 Brackett Memorial Hall will have a Children's Fair from 10A.M. until 1P.M. There will be gifts for all the family and the children can do a all their Christmas shopping.

of the Christmas tree this year. Because of the energy crisis, there will be no Christmas light. Hopefully the world will have Peace and a better understanding for all nations in 1974.

DECEMBER 14 Friday. 8 P.M. The Casco Bay Art Club will hold a



ELMER REED OF PEAKS ISLAND TESTING SCALLOP DRAGGING GEAR ON HIS

NEW FISHING VESSEL BETWEEN PEAKS AND HOUSE ISLANDS.

DECEMBER 8 Brackett Memorial Church will sponsor a Youth Fellowship supper. This will begin at 5:30 P.M. and will last until 7:30 P.M. The supper will be followed by a "Slave Auction"

CORRECTION:

DECEMBER 9, the Brackett Memorial Church Choir will put on a cantata (Night of Miracle) at 3 P.M.

CANCELLATION:

DECEMBER 12, the Scout Troop 769 will not sing at the lighting

Christmas party at the Weatherly on Centennial Street (Lithfield's) Bring small gifts to exchange, preferably hand made

DECEMBER 16 The Sunday School children's program will put on a play (The Story of Christmas). The ages of the children are from the nursery class and the sixth grade. This will take place at Brackett Memorial Hall at 2:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 16 Sunday. After Mass, the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) will be given

for all children who have made their First Communion or who wish to receive their First Holy Communion in the spring. For many children, this will be their first time. Any who are in the habit of going to confession may go at this time also.

DECEMBER 19 Senior Citizen Center will have a Christmas party. Two weeks before Christmas they will start craft classes for about 6 people. Ansel Sterling will be the teacher. If you are interested, call Mrs. Harvey Woodbury at 766-2559.

DECEMBER 23 Sunday. The Children's Theater will present four short plays as a Christmas present to their parents and to all the children who wish to attend. They will have a party after the performance. It will be held at 3 P.M. in the Parish Hall Give your hearty support to these young Thespians

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Di Millo are the proud parents of a 9 pound 12 ounce BOUNCING baby boy (Michael Anthony) The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jake Hutchins of Peaks Island, and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dimillo of 33 Valley Road, Cape Elizabeth

Miss Roxanne Moore of Cape Elizabeth and Mr. John Fletcher of Peaks Island will be married December 15 at St. Christopher's Church. Father Burns will officiate.

CHRISTMAS EVE One half hour before the Mid-night Mass at St. Christopher's Church, there will be a short concert. On this occasion, Father Burns will render several Christmas selections on the organ. The group will play *O Come all Ye Faithful*, *Silent Night*, and *Angels we have heard on High*. The organ will be played by Sister Ann Augusta, guitar by Mary Delaney, Sister Rosina and Sister Rita.

The Peaks Island Child Care Center had a dance featuring the Shandells. The dance was given to raise funds for the center, especially to paint the part of the church hall that is used by the center. It was a great success, with a turnout of approximately 200 people.

A December Day is even more beautiful in remembering.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happiness in the New Year.

Dorothy Wright

These Island Businesses and the Casco Bay Breeze Wish You A Very Merry Christmas



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PUC Hearing Set

The Public Utilities Commission has scheduled its hearing on the I.C.A. request to operate the Magnum for Wednesday, December 12, at 10A.M. It will be held in the Seymour Room of the Holiday Inn on Spring Street.

This hearing will determine whether the most serious challenge to the Casco Bay Lines monopoly since 1959 will be given a chance to work.

It will also determine whether the P.U.C. is interested in the well-being of the public and the consumer, or in the protection of the companies it is supposed to regulate.

Casco Bay Lines has asked to intervene in the hearing, claiming that they will be seriously hurt by the Magnum. They claim they are a marginal operation and even a removal of 5-7% of their revenue would bankrupt them. In fact, CBL is so concerned, that attorney Charles Cragin has warned the CBL employees to be especially nice to island people for the next few weeks so they'll "forget about Rodney Ross and his boat."

The I.C.A. believes that the true worry of Casco Bay Lines is that the Magnum will prove that a ferry service can be run inexpensively, cordially, and comfortably and still make money

Many observers feel that the odds are slightly less than even that the P.U.C. will approve the Magnum. They cite the long and cozy relationship between Casco Bay Lines and the P.U.C. They say that barring an overwhelming show of unity by island residents, the P.U.C. will feel safer by staying within the status quo. Given the time of the hearing (10 A.M. on a working day), they say it is very unlikely that

a show of force will develop.

Optimists point out that the unity has already been demonstrated over the past few months by the number of complaints received by the P.U.C., that the P.U.C. is fed up with the constant problems caused by Casco Bay Lines and, most important, that the proposal won't cost them anything. The optimists believe the P.U.C. will say, "What the hell, we've had nothing but complaints about Casco Bay Lines, we'll let these folks try their boat for a year and see how it goes."

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"Just a Little Mistake"

WEEKDAY SHOW: CHANNEL
6 WCSH TV

"Two budding young actresses." This remark was made to Dorothy W Wright and Lena Fletcher of Peaks Island. They appeared on the Weekday Show, Friday, November 30. M.C. Mr. Cliff Reynolds talked about the play (Just a Little Mistake) that was put on by the Dramatic Society and held at St. Christopher's Hall. This interview was beneficiary to the church and it reflected the easygoing manner of the island and its people. They were asked numerous questions concerning Peaks Island, the Casco Bay strike, and the Island Citizen's plan for a new boat.



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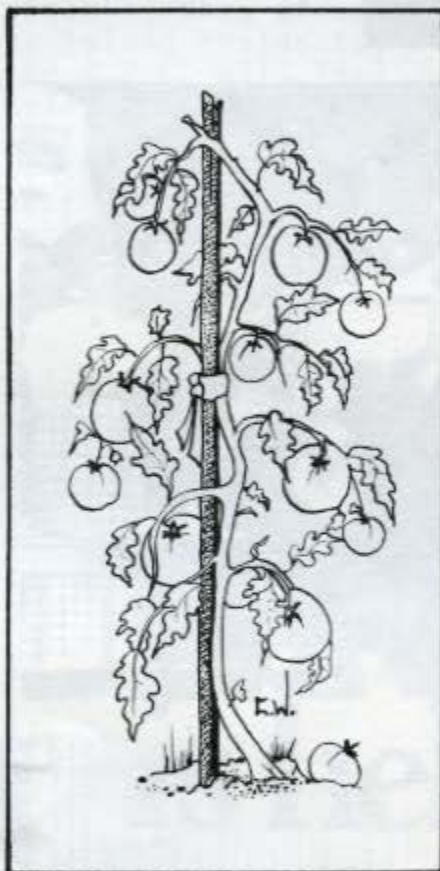
Round about February, have you ever longed for garden fresh vegetables or an encouraging sign that spring is not too far away? You can have both without too much trouble, by raising an indoor crop of vegetables in flower pots. It's good therapy for slow afternoons and keeps kids entertained.

O.K., you will need 1. Soil for your seed pans or jiffy seven pellets. 2. Baking pans or shallow roasting pans, which make excellent mini-garden beds. 3. Plastic food wrap. 4. Seeds, i.e. carrot, beet, tomato, lettuce, green pepper, or herb. The best seed for indoor growing is also the best seed for summer gardens in this area, those requiring only a very short growing season. 4. A water-soluble fertilizer. 5. As many flower pots as you would have individual plants.

Now sow in either jiffy sevens or pans, water well and cover with plastic wrap to create a greenhouse effect. Place pan in sunny window and sit back and watch for a week or so until sprouts begin to show their heads. Keep an eye on the moisture level and be sure never to let soil dry out. After the first week of germination, water once with a diluted

solution of fertilizer. When seedlings grow to be about two inches tall, it is time to transplant best looking strongest plants to their flowerpots.

Prepare flower pots



by placing pebbles or pottery shards in the bottoms of each pot to keep drainage holes clear, and fill each pot 1/2 full for jiffy sevens and 3/4 full for individual plants and water well.

To transplant individual plants from seed beds, use a small, thin utensil, like the narrow end of a nail file as a trowel to gently pry plants up without damaging their roots. Stand plant up,

one to a pot, cover root ball with soil and water. Try to rotate plants so that each side gets equal amounts of sun which prevents them from getting lopsided. A light solution of fertilizer every other week will keep them fairly well fed.

It helps to think kindly about them as you tend them, even to verbalize their green good looks.

The plants who seem to refuse to flower probably don't like the weather and should be saved towards a head start on next summer's outdoor bumper crop.

Oh, yes. The seedlings you decide to discard when you transplant the best looking of the bunch, make very nice nibbles for your cat and dog friends who also have thoughts of salad days.

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Casco Bay (continued)

and controversy surrounding the environmental effects of these types of pollution, I will postpone their discussion, along with the problems raised by thermal pollution, to later articles

Casco Bay receives large amounts of organic pollutants in the form of untreated human sewage from the neighboring cities of Portland and South Portland, as well as the smaller mainland Communities and the islands themselves. All natural waters have a certain ability to cleanse themselves of pollutants, especially organic pollutants, which is directly related to the natural productivity of the aquatic ecosystem (the ability of the life forms of a particular body of water to utilize and consume the

pollutants). Relatively shallow coastal bays, as is Casco Bay, and estuaries, as Portland Harbor, are particularly productive areas and can cleanse themselves of large amounts of organic pollutants, acting as natural sewage treatment plants. However, there is a definite limit to the amounts of waste products that any ecosystem can handle and even small amounts of organic effluent have a noticeable effect on the ecosystem, effects that often conflict with the uses man would like to make of his environment, such as fishing (commercial and sport), shellfish harvesting and aquaculture, and recreational uses.

To determine the degree of organic pollution present in a body of water, certain water quality parameters

are used. These include the oxygen content of the water (dissolved oxygen D.O.) usually lowered in polluted conditions; the rate at which available oxygen is consumed by the organisms present (biological oxygen demand B.O.D.) usually high in polluted waters; chemical analyses of certain organic compounds and/or nutrients; bacteria counts which are usually done on coliform bacteria (harmless but abundant inhabitants of the human digestive tract, that give an indication of the amount of untreated sewage added to the water and shows the possibility of disease causing bacteria being present); and the various types and numbers of the organisms living in the area (species diversity and the abundance of certain indicator species).

Utilizing existing water quality measurements gives a picture of the extent to which Casco Bay is polluted. Several sampling programs have been carried out in various parts of the bay, including an expensive program administered by Maine Environmental Services for Central Maine Power Company (Cousins Island to Hussey Sound) periodic sampling by SMVTI and TRIGOM and a continuing study of the Fore River estuary (Portland Harbor) by Dr. Michael Mazurkiewicz and the author in cooperation with the Coast Guard.

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(continued)

All of these studies have found the water through most of the bay to be of good quality with the exception of those areas immediately adjacent to sewage outfalls. D.O. levels have reported to be excellent (five to eleven parts per million reported) for most areas, but dropping to one to two PPM near outfalls. This gives adequate conditions for all native marine organisms. The species diversity of the natural communities (bottom-dwelling, benthic, freefloating or swimming, neritic, and inter-tidal - littoral) was found to be high and characteristic of a productive and stable ecosystem. These conditions are due in part to the ability of the ecosystem to cleanse itself of pollutants and in part to the high rate of tidal flushing in Casco Bay.

However, Coliform bacterial counts taken

during the MES survey were above the maximum limit (70 colonies per 100ml) through out the area encompassed in that study. Even higher counts could be expected for the waters in the western part of the bay as counts of over 1000 colonies per 100 ml caused the closing of Portland's East End Beach for swimming about a decade ago. Although the counts at Peaks Island would most likely find the water fit for swimming and other recreational activities the counts would definitely be too high for the safe consumption of filter feeding shellfish such as clams or mussels. Counts along the Hussey Sound shore of Peaks Island and along the ocean side of the outlying islands are slightly over or slightly under the 70/100ml mark making limited consumption of shellfish from these

areas reasonably safe although most of the area has been closed to shellfish harvesting.

Looking toward the future, the limited degree of present pollution indicates that if major polluters, especially the City of Portland were to effectively treat their wastes the major pollution stress would be eliminated. Aside from removing potential health hazards the treated wastes could provide a nutrient source that could, if properly handled, increase the yield of many commercially valuable marine organisms in Casco Bay. This could open the possibility of a thriving in the new field of aquaculture for which Casco Bay could be an ideal location as it lies in a nutrient rich, productive and protected coastal area that is conveniently close to a major market

WEIGHT LIMIT LOWERED ON VEHICLE LOADING RAMP AT PORTLAND PIER

On Monday, November 26, the City of Portland reduced the maximum load limit on the vehicle loading ramp at Portland Pier from 20,000 pounds (10 tons) to 5 tons. This action would, in theory, exclude nearly all commercial truck traffic from using the facility as almost any truck larger than a pick-up would exceed

5 tons when loaded. A CBL spokesman said that the City has acted because of the deteriorating condition of the facility.



The City of Portland has asked the state to assume ownership and maintenance of the Portland Pier ramp and also the ferry landing at Cliff Island. It is doubtful that the City will enforce the new limit, but it will not be responsible for vehicles in excess of 5 tons using the ramp.

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(continued)

We hear that CBL wanted to include a clause in the contract that the union could be voted out at any time, but this provision was deleted when the captains agreed to be paid overtime after 48 hours instead of 40.

Another provision of the contract is that it will automatically be terminated if CBL is sold, taken by eminent domain, or replaced with another service. Since Casco Bay Lines has not yet filed with the P.U.C. for a fare increase, much less been granted one, we fail to see how such an increase can be "imminent." Also, we wonder how Cragin can state with such certainty that the increase will be granted before a public hearing is even held.

Also, since the deckhands contract was signed on October 12, two union deckhands have been fired, ostensibly for picketing with the captains who were still strike. Their union representative is now looking into what can be done to see to it that they are reinstated.

Let us hope that Casco Bay Lines finds a way to live at peace with its employees and customers at last.

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CBIDA Meeting Discusses Transportation Problems

by Irene Murray and
Michael Day

On December 1st, the transportation and steering committees of the Casco Bay Island Development Association (CBIDA) held its monthly meeting in the Maine Port Authority conference room on the State Pier.

The first item on the agenda of the transportation committee concerned the public image of Casco Bay Lines (CBL) for which

portation committee, proposed a motion that CBIDA take no stand on the ICA petition. The motion was subsequently amended to include the forwarding of a list of complaints concerning the inadequacy of CBL service to the Public Utilities Commission at the public hearing December 12. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0 with 4 abstentions. These recommendations were forwarded to the steer-



Rev. John Bachman, Pastor of Brackett Memorial, proposed several possibilities, including a special boat for Christmas shoppers.

The second item was a motion by Howard Tunstall that the CBIDA endorse the Island Citizens Association (ICA) petition to operate a supplementary boat service to Peaks Island. Then the floor was given to Michael Day, representative for the ICA, who explained the purpose of the ICA proposed service.

Peter McLaughlin, a member of the trans-

ing committee.

The steering committee met immediately after the transportation committee, endorsed their recommendations, and voted that their president, Jim Coolbrith, present CBIDA's complaints at the December 12th hearing.

In This Issue:

PHOTOS by Michael Day
ART WORK by Carol Whitmore Day
TYPESETTING by Susan Scandlen
LAYOUT by Greg & Susan Scandlen
PRINTING by Howard Tunstall

Sonny Whitton on the Oil Crisis

By Ann Parris

With all the speculation about an oil shortage this winter, we thought it might be helpful to print some reliable information about the situation on Peaks. Here is what Sonny Whitton shared with us.

"There isn't a fuel shortage on Peaks Island at the moment. There may be one, but it's hard to say when because I have no recent information. If it starts, it will last all winter. Number two fuel oil and kerosene are the fuels most likely to be affected. Suburban Propane shouldn't have a problem because they are not being used for heat in industry, but going only to residential buildings."

"At present, I am on an allocation system, which allows me to buy the same amount of fuel that I bought last winter. But supposedly it's going to be cut down. If there is a cutdown, we'll get the same as anybody else. It'll be distributed equally around the country."

"No, I have no prediction about the weather this winter. I don't even read the Almanac. So far, it's been real nice. Last November was a helluva lot colder. I can't overbuy, though. What I don't buy this month, that I bought last year, I have to forfeit. So I'm keeping everyone's tanks full and my storage tanks too."

"If rationing comes

into effect, Mobil will ration me and I'll ration the customers, but everyone will be rationed equally. Senior Citizens are in small homes, mostly, so they don't use too much fuel. The situation will be the same for each person, because each individual will get the same percentage of the fuel he bought last winter, month by month."

"Another thing, I see a tremendous amount of wood in different yards around the island. There's a lot of driftwood that can be used in an emergency. The price of wood uptown is \$60. to \$65. a cord."

"My position as a dealer is better than that of independent dealers who buy surplus oil off major companies. I deal direct from Mobil on a franchise basis. They will have to give me fuel. They can't let 300 homes go cold. But the price will rise. I've heard 29.9 for #2 fuel oil in Massachusetts."

"I'll go by Mobil's program because I've never been through it before and I don't know how it works."

"Have you any more suggestions for conserving fuel?"

"Just what you see in the paper. Tighten up as much as you can. Close up any rooms you don't use. Have storm windows and doors on. Keep kids from running in and out all day long."

"How will this affect business?"

"It will be bad."

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